

# THAT WALK ON THE MOON

All of us who are old enough remember the joy and excitement we experienced when we heard the news that Neil Armstrong had become the first person to walk on the moon.

An aerospace engineer, naval aviator, test pilot, and university professor, Armstrong was mission commander of *Apollo 11*, landing it on the moon on July 20, 1969, and stepping onto its surface and into history, accompanied by fellow astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

It was Armstrong who uttered those immortal words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Armstrong died on Aug. 25, 2012.

At his memorial service, Col. Thomas Moe, a retired Air Force officer and prisoner of war, told how Armstrong's lunar feat had impacted his life and those of other inmates.

Moe had been a fighter pilot in Vietnam. When his plane malfunctioned during a flight into Vietnam, he was forced to land behind enemy lines. He was captured quickly and remained a prisoner of war for five years.

Later, when he met Armstrong, he told the astronaut that the guards were always trying to discourage the prisoners, telling them the United States was losing the war, that Americans didn't care about the POWs, and that America had lost the space race.

One day, Moe said, a fellow inmate received a letter from his mother. The guards – as they typically did with mail – had gone through the letter, striking out any good news about America.

What the guards forgot to do was to look at the stamp. It featured Armstrong landing on the moon.

The stamp proved the guards were wrong, and the prisoners were jubilant.

What distractions come before you – seeking to discourage you from a fulfilled, abundant life? Might they come in the form of alcohol, partying, an obsession with some sport or hobby, an unwise or illegitimate relationship, a controlling love of money?



Temptations can come at any of us from many directions. Satan has an arsenal of tools with which to assault us. He seeks to discourage us in many ways, from doubts to persecution.

We must stand strong in the faith, secure in the knowledge of the love and protection of our Savior.

*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:11 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter